



2D LAR BN



Family Newsletter

July 2009

Commanding Officer's Corner

by Major Cesar Rodriguez, Acting Battalion Commander

30 July 2009

Families and Friends of 2D LAR Battalion,

It seems as if its been only a week since my last update for the Battalion Rear. This past month has truly been a trying time for us all. The battalion experienced its first casualties from its Marines and Sailors deployed to Afghanistan. We mourn the loss of our brothers Lance Corporal Pedro Barbozaflores, Master Sergeant Jerome Hatfield, and Sergeant Ryan Lane. First Lieutenant James Armstrong and Corporal Charles Hettle were wounded in action and are recovering well from their non-serious injuries. Lance Corporal Justin Howell was evacuated due to serious illness and is also recovering well at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Please keep these Marines and their families in your prayers. May God help them through this difficult time.

The Marines in Afghanistan continue to take the fight to the enemy in Helmand Province. I had the pleasure of visiting with the Battalion while I was in Afghanistan. Although my time with the Marines and Sailors was short, it was enjoyable. It never ceases to amaze me how morale can be so high given the conditions they live in. The Marines stay in tents without air conditioning and without all the creature comforts of home. The restrooms are outside and the meals are MREs and hot water. The Marines do get resupplies of ice on occasion and do receive mail about every week or two. Please note I did not say mail takes a week to arrive to your Marines and Sailors. What I did say is some

mail is delivered to them about every week or so. Bottom line is mail is slow. The Battalion was able to set-up their equipment that allows them to send and receive email and to make phone calls out over DSN lines. Since they are not supported by other agencies at this time, there are very few phone lines and computers to go around. Basically, they are the work stations and work phones for the staff. LtCol Grattan makes every effort to ensure they are made available as time and work permit for the Marines to stay in contact with their families. I did take the time to ask the Marines what they would like me to ask everyone to send them. Their response was simple. In your follow on care packages the Marines and Sailors would like to receive the following:

Dip (all brands)
Cigarettes (all brands)
Gatorade mix (preferably the single serving types to include crystal light)
Anti-fungal foot spray
I also recommend the following:
Toiletry Items (baby wipes, razors with refills, soup, toothpaste and tooth brushes)
Socks (green, brown, or black boot socks but not winter weight) Underwear (all sizes)
A few sets of poker chips (they have been playing with pieces of colored paper)

The Marines are in good spirits despite the austere conditions and the 120 degree weather. All have lost a little weight, but still look healthy and dusty.

The Marines in the rear continue to train and remain ready to execute any mission that may arise. Company A is

preparing for its upcoming training deployment to the West Coast. They are motivated and continue to impress me with their camaraderie and work ethic. The Marines and Sailor of the 22d MEU continue to impress their higher headquarters. Captain Winn works hard at keeping us abreast of their progress and accomplishments whenever he can. First Lieutenant Light's platoon is currently training in Virginia in preparation for their upcoming deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. They are a great group of men and will undoubtedly uphold the high standard and reputation of the Battalion. The remainder of Company B continues to train its Marines and Sailors in preparation of forming the next MEU platoon in support of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Platoon.

Company E continues to form, man and equip itself as the 5th LAR Company. Their new Company Commander, Captain Lenz, is a solid Marine and has jumped right in with both feet. Company E will certainly become full operation capable in a timely fashion; being ready to conduct security and reconnaissance mission in support of the Division.

Each section in H&S Company continues to train should the need arise for additional support to Afghanistan. This can be a daunting task as most man hours are consumed with getting the Battalion back on the track with traditional garrison requirements such as accountability of gear and equipment, maintenance of LAVs and other vehicle assets, fiscal procedures, and training procedures. The Marines of H&S Company take great pride in their work and substantial progress that has been achieved since the Battalion's

return from Fort Irwin, CA.

Lastly, I want to remind all our families that we will continue to train and prepare for any support requirements from the battalion in Afghanistan and from our higher headquarters, 2d Marine Division. Although the lion's share of the Battalion remains in the rear, there is much to do before the return of our Marines and Sailors from Afghanistan and from the various MEU deployments. I hope to see you soon at one of the scheduled Company or Battalion events, the upcoming Battalion Birthday Ball (more details to follow), or just in the local area. Please keep our Marines and Sailors in your thoughts and prayers, and continue to support each other. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to let one of our many great volunteers know or contact our Family Readiness Officer directly at (910) 451-1620 in the office or cell (910) 381-0651.

Sincerely,

Cesar Rodriguez
Major,
Commanding Officer (Acting)
2d LAR Battalion (Rear)

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Chaplain's Corner

To the Families of 2D LAR,

It has been an honor for me to provide chaplain services to your great battalion in the absence of Chaplain Rivers. I have now been formally chopped to 2D CEB to begin the preparation for our deployment to Afghanistan in November. I am pleased to introduce to you the new Chaplain of 2D Tanks, LT Joel DeGraeve, who will be covering for LAR.

I have appreciated the welcome I have received from the command and staff of 2D LAR. As I begin with CEB, I will be covering for Chaplain DeGraeve from time to time, and I look forward to opportunities to serve you in the future.

I bid you my prayers and God's blessing as you continue your mission together, and especially for the safe return of your men from deployment.

With great appreciation, I remain,
Semper Fi, Chaplain David Duprey

Family Readiness Officer's Corner

Howdy 2D LAR BN Marines, Sailors, Family, and Friends:

Is everyone taking advantage of the wonderful events that are available to you as a dependant? If your answer is yes, send me a message about your experience so we can encourage others to participate and let them know what they are missing. If the answer is no, why not? Feeling a little lonely, don't want to experience new things on your own, give me a call and maybe I can hook you up with another dependant that is feeling the same way!

There is so much to do around Camp Lejeune and the surrounding area as well as within our own battalion! Take a look - we have ladies that have created some wonderful projects such as Operation Deployed Delivery.

Operation Deployed Delivery's Mission is to provide support for wives who are expecting. We are here to offer comfort, support, and hope for expecting mothers. Meetings will provide resources and information, and will include topics like Red Cross, WIC, Doulas, and what to expect. Meetings are held twice a month at 7:00 pm in the 2D LAR classroom. There is plenty of room to volunteer as a mentor or be a participant and learn about what is available to you. For more information contact Heather Luis at polku2405@yahoo.com

What? Did I hear you were new to the Corps? Wow, we have plenty of

women that are experienced and would love to share their knowledge by being your Big Sis - this is designed to establish friendships between new wives/girlfriends and seasoned wives/girlfriends to help with first deployment blues, IPAC, family support, LINKS, living alone, and other challenges that new military wives/spouses experience. Our point of contact for this event is Clara McDaniel and she may be contacted at clarabellemcdaniel@yahoo.com. Bring a friend and have fun meeting new people.

Say Cheese! Yep, that's right, take yourself and your family to the local USO and make a DVD video message for your deployed loved one! SMILES over the MILES is a FREE program for military ID card holders, sponsored by Pioneer Services, Inc.! Enjoy pizza courtesy of Pizza Hut, games and prizes! This event is every 1st Thursday of the month between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Now, go already!

Survival of the Finest (Russell building) is the theme for 2D LAR BNs "In the Midst" program which is designed to help you build resiliency to life's stresses. This program is fun, educational and will help build new and current relationships. This event will be on August 29th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm with free childcare! You will need to RSVP (very important) by August 19th. Free childcare will be available. Reservations can be made starting Monday

August 17th by calling TT CDC at 450-1646 or 450-1648 if your child fits the ages of 6 wks to 5 years of age or contact TT YP at 450-1422 if your child fits the ages of Kindergarten through 12 years old.

"In the Midst" participants need to let the childcare facility know you are attending the "In the Midst" workshop! All children must be registered with Children, Youth, and Teen Programs (have a white card.) If not registered, you may register your child (ren) at the Resource & Referral Office, Bldg 1966 Stone Street (log cabin located at the Stables) between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please provide the child's shot records and a copy of the most recent medical physical (if available.)

Please let me know if you are planning to attend these events so I may have the opportunity to meet you! As always, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Susan Toney, Family Readiness Officer
C: (910) 381-0651 / O: (910) 451-1620

Alpha Company Update

Hello to the friends and family of Alpha Company,

My name is Capt Jared Laurin and I recently assumed command of the "Apache nation" on 3 June 2009. I have a wife Jeanne of 8 years, and a 19 month old daughter named Jade. We are very excited and happy to be here in North Carolina after our rewarding tours in Virginia, Okinawa and Hawaii. I just wanted to say how proud and humbled I am to serve with these fine Marines and Sailors. It was an opportune time for me to check in as the company departed to the training areas for an extremely demanding 8 day field training exercise during June. The Company performed superbly and we were able to leave the field a day early for their efforts. We really pushed the company hard while training with little sleep, numerous difficult scenarios and arduous weather conditions in preparation for Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marines and Sailors truly performed their best and it was a great way for me to evaluate the level of proficiency in which the company operates. From this training, I have been able to fine tune the training and set a packed schedule until we head out in September. Alpha Company is tentatively scheduled to deploy to 29 Palms around the beginning of September for the Enhanced Mojave Viper as we get

attached to 4th LAR. The company will then conduct any makeup training and start block leave before we deploy in support of OEF. Once we get firm dates for the deployment we will certainly inform everyone so that family planning and preparations can be made.

We had quite a few well deserved promotions during the month of June and they were: Sergeant World, Corporal Blieler, and Lance Corporals Bulford, Pyles, and Hawn. During June we also meritoriously promoted Corporal Carter and Lance Corporal Orcutt. Corporal Drelich was recommended for the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter Board for the Battalion and although he did not win he performed and represented the company well. We also promoted Corporals Riley and Perego on the 1st of July.

The Company presented a few awards during June for the hard work in planning and executing the field exercise with Certificates of Commendation to First Lieutenant Merritt and Master Sergeant Cuneo. The company also had an unfortunate accident on 11 June 2009 as a drunk driver ran into my vehicle when we were returning from seeing Delta Company off for their deployment. There were 3 young females in the car that ran into our

LAV 25 at approximately 65 MPH. Many Marines and Sailors assisted in the immediate life saving care of the ladies so we presented them with Meritorious Mast. Those individuals were: Staff Sergeant Kelly, Corporal Jones, Lance Corporals Gonzales, Treadway, Kruse, and also Petty Officer 3rd Class Ostrander and Hospital Man Andrews. These Marines and Sailors were spot on with their responsiveness and care during the incident. Our thoughts and prayers are with one of the ladies as she is in the hospital.

The month of July will have us completing training on Martial Arts, Swim Qualifications, Corporals Course, Blue Force Tracker, and some platoon and NCO driven training. The non-commissioned officers of Apache will also be departing for Quantico to tour the Marine Corps museum on the 24th. I look forward to meeting all the families and friends of Alpha Company on the 17th of July at our highly anticipated Family day event at Whippoorwill campground. Please come up and say hi! Thank you for the continued support as we conduct training and prepare the company to deploy.

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Jared Laurin
Captain/USMC

United Through Reading Experience

I arrived home from work on Friday to find a small cardboard envelope from my husband. There was a small DVD inside! Right away, I put the DVD in the player and there was my husband! He started talking and I thought how great it was to send a DVD message. I am 5 months pregnant, so he said hello to the baby and then he said he wanted the baby to get used to his voice. He started reading a

book to the baby! My heart just melted. He looked so great and it was just like he was sitting in front of us! Then he read another book. The first time I saw the DVD I just cried. It was so sweet and I am so grateful that his daughter

"He started reading a book to the baby! My heart just melted."

will hear his voice. Now, I play the DVD everyday and it really soothes me to hear his voice and see his face. After he read the book, he talked to us for a little while. The DVD was about 10 minutes long. I love it because our daughter will be able to watch this DVD forever and see where her daddy was when she was born!

Article submitted by Ann Marie Lowe

Bravo Company Update

Dear families and friends of Company B,

I wanted to provide you an update on the Black Knights currently deployed with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and with the 24th MEU. The Marines and Sailors attached to the 22nd MEU are currently operating in the US Central Command Area of Operation. Captain Winn was able to provide a letter which you will also find in this newsletter. His platoon has done a great job representing the Battalion. Lieutenant Light's Marines and Sailors attached to the 24th MEU are currently deployed to Virginia conducting live fire exercises, a patrolling package, and integrating with elements of the Battalion Landing Team (BLT). They continue to work

extremely hard to complete their required training before their fast approaching deployment date.

As for the rest of Company B, we are starting to lean forward to identify Marines for the platoon that will deploy with the 26 MEU later next year. Although it seems far away, there is a tremendous amount of work and preparation that is required to form, equip, train and embark a Light Armored Reconnaissance Platoon for deployment with our shipmates from our sister service, the US Navy.

Lastly, I would also like to wish Fair Winds and Following Seas to the following Marines who are on Terminal Leave or preparing to execute their permanent change of station orders (PCS). Their hard work and effort

these last few years with the Battalion is much appreciated. God bless them and may they continue to excel at their next duty station, whether it be another Marine Corps unit or within the private sector.

Cpl Argent
Cpl Jose
Cpl Mason
Cpl Pakes
Cpl Selznick
SSgt Williams Hopkins
SSgt Noble

Sincerely,

1stSgt Robert E. Taylor
B Co. 2D LAR, 2D MarDiv

Bravo Company Update

Friends and Family,

Greetings from the Middle East! I hope that your summer is progressing well and you enjoyed the 4th of July.

In mid-June we crossed the Suez Canal and entered the Red Sea. This signaled the MEUs assignment to the Navy's Fifth Fleet, which falls under the bigger umbrella of Central Command (CENTCOM). CENTCOM is the portion of the Department of Defense that oversees all U.S. Military operations in the Middle East. Our current mission is that of the Theatre Reserve. This simply means that we are at the ready for whatever Central Command may require of us.

Our training ashore in Greece was a valuable experience. The platoon focused on refreshing and further developing dismounted patrolling skills. Given the challenging mountainous

terrain that Greece had to offer (nothing like where the platoon has conducted training thus far), this proved an outstanding training venue. Within the constraints of the area, we also conducted some mounted patrolling from the LAVs. This included a day of training with the Greek "Hellenic" Marines. The Greeks brought a platoon of their HMMWV mounted infantryman to train with our platoon. This proved to be an eye opening experience for all, given that the Marine Corps has not conducted bi-lateral training in Greece since the late 1990's. The Greeks gave us a warm welcome and the Marines got a chance to do some trading to acquire remembrances of Greece such as patches, covers belts and a host of other Military Items.

We do not know where the next 30

days will see us. However, the Marines are doing an outstanding job as they continue to set the standard in all that they do. While at sea, we are making the most of the time and will be conducting sustainment training and maintaining our physical and maintenance readiness.

I am proud to serve with this fine group of Americans as we mark the 233d Birthday of our great nation. We remain ready for whatever we are called to do.

Thank you for the ongoing sacrifice that you and your family make this summer in being separated from your Marine (or sailor). Have a great summer.

Captain Christopher D Winn
LAR Platoon Commander

H&S Company Update

Families and Friends of H&S Co,

Once again we want to thank you for your continued support of both our Marines at home and abroad and ask that you continue to keep our Marines that are deployed to Afghanistan in your thoughts and prayers as they continue combat operations in southern Helmond Province. From all that we have heard on the home front they continue to do great things in support of the War on Terror and for the people of Afghanistan. Back in Camp Lejeune we continue to focus on training in preparation for future deployments and in the hope that we can join our brothers in the

fight as soon as possible. We have multiple field evolutions coming up that should prove to hone our skills and make us more prepared for the task ahead.

We want to thank everyone for coming out and participating in the Family Day/Field Meet as it was a great success. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Keisler for all of her extra help with the T-shirts. We hope that we can do more events like this in the future. A reminder we also still have H&S Company

"A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Keisler for all of her extra help with the T-shirts"

Wives t-shirts and tank tops for sale. The cost is \$10 and anyone interested may contact 1stSgt Mims at (910) 451-6305.

Finally thank you for continuing to be a part of our Marine Corps Family.

Company Points of Contact

The Family Readiness Program recently went through major changes when the old Key Volunteer Network was revamped. However, with anything new, changes are still occurring to enhance the Family Readiness Program. There will be points of contact for each company for spouses and girlfriends who are in the area for social events. If you would like to be on this roster, you must call or email using the provided information so that the point of contact may contact you. This is strictly voluntary and your information will not be taken from the Mass Communication Tool. Below you will find the Company Points of Contact.

Alpha - Kim Cuneo

Kristen Kirksey

Bravo - no representative

Charlie - Clara McDaniel

Maggie Meza

Delta - Maria Dempster

Karen Morrison

Jenny Ingels

Marisa Latham

Echo - no representative

H&S - Michelle Marsh

Echo Company Update

May saw Echo Company supporting the Battalion in a number of events, including a static shoot for college Midshipmen from across the country with the Light Armored Vehicles we train and operate. We will continue these demonstrations throughout the month of June. In addition, our training has begun to intensify as the numbers in the company grow. May marked Echo Company's first field exercise since the company's formation in October of 2008.

2ndLt Rieser and Sgt Smith took a few Marines and a LAV to New York City on the USS Iwo Jima, a Navy Amphibious Assault Ship. While in New York, they took part in "Fleet Week," an annual event where the City of New York thanks the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard for their service. In addition to US Forces, foreign naval forces are invited to par-

ticipate. When the Marines were not busy showing off the LAV to the citizens of New York, they dressed up in their Dress Blue uniform, and were allowed to experience the city. Everyone who went came back trying to sign up for next year's event.

The Marines of the company got some hands on experience with grenades during May. They first had to qualify on a distance and accuracy course, and then ran through a simulated grenade assault course as part of a buddy team. Next, in preparation for the live grenades, they each practiced the proper and safe techniques under the watchful eyes of SSgt Contreras, Sgt Smith, and Sgt Lindsey. Not only did they practice the correct throwing procedures, but they also practiced drills in case a grenade was dropped, which required a quick evacuation of throwing areas by leaping over a small

wall. Finally, the Marines were able to receive and throw their live grenades which, due in part to the training they received, occurred without incident. The main complaint being that they could not watch the grenades explode because of safety concerns, but that did not stop a few of them from being showered with dirt from the explosions.

As new Marines and Sailors continue to join the ranks of Echo Company, we focus on the road ahead. For June we anticipate building on our current training as we work towards accomplishing our annual and semi-annual requirements for our current Marines and Sailors. We are also anticipating the arrival of our new Company Commander by months end.

1stLt Kuderko

Echo Company Update

Congratulations to the following Marines for promotions in the month of June and early July: Corporal Moye, Corporal Moreno, Lance Corporal Lewellen (meritorious), Lance Corporal Ryan, Lance Corporal Lantow, Lance Corporal Kookan, Lance Corporal Schmidt, Lance Corporal Lopezmendez, Lance Corporal Korn, Lance Corporal Churchill, and Lance Corporal Andrews. The Officers and Staff Non-commissioned Officers of Company E thank these Marines for their service and their continued

achievement.

The Marines promoted in early July, were promoted on Onslow Beach during the Company's Field Meet. We started the day with a short run up and down the beach and through the surf with boots and utilities and then moved into a round robin tug of war tournament in which 3rd Platoon emerged the ultimate victor. The Marines spent the day getting to know each other, hanging out at the beach, and getting the benefits of an outdoor cookout, including

hotdogs, hamburgers, and brats'. The event was a success and enjoyed by all.

As we move forward, our company's focus will shift to preparing for our 10 day Field Exercise in early August. We will be leaving on Saturday, 1 August and returning Monday, 10 August so please plan accordingly for any family events.

Capt. A. D. LENZ

Operation Security (OPSEC)

Operation Security (OPSEC)

What is OPSEC? OPSEC is the act of safeguarding information, that while not classified, is sensitive in nature.

Who is responsible for OPSEC? Everyone is; from the military members to their family and friends.

Why is OPSEC important? It is important because there are people unfriendly to the US (terrorist, people who don't like the United States or the War on Terrorism) who would like to "attack" us as a unit, or country. These people are watching, reading, and surfing the web, TV, and other news agencies for information about unit activities.

What are they looking for? These people are looking for all types of information. How many guys are in this unit? What weapons/vehicles do we use? When is the unit deploying/redeploying?

Why is this information important? While it might not seem very important as individual questions, all of this information together can help the "enemy" gather information on how & when they can "attack" us.

What can I share? When posting information or sharing with other family members and/or friends, be vague. Here are some examples:

1. When is "Johnny" coming home? Later on this year.
2. Where is "Johnny" deployed to? Afghanistan.

The less information that is out there, the safer our troops will be.



Loose Lips Sink Ships

The famous WWII motto had to deal with OPSEC and releasing information that allowed the enemy to have too much information. Today is no different, but this article is similar but not related to the enemy. Human beings have a tendency to want to know everything. This article is of a sensitive nature but one necessary to serve as a reminder to Marines, Sailors, and family members alike.

During war, unfortunate events take place in the form of injuries and casualties. Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) is a Marine assigned this role to inform the Next of Kin (NOK) when an unfortunate event takes place. Once NOK is notified an official message will be sent out to let unit members know but sometimes the proper method is interrupted by too many people want-

ing to be the one to inform others of the tragic event. When your deployed service member, another Marine or Sailor, spouse or family member wants to "fill you in" on an incident please urge them not to do so. Those who think they are "in the know", are wrong and it becomes a detriment to the unit as well the NOK family members who may not have heard the news yet.

Many people who have experienced incidents where they were told by a fellow spouse or another service member of something that happened to their deployed Marine have also mentioned the devastation felt after hearing through improper channels. This article is simply written to ask all of you reading it to please, put yourself in the family members shoes and decide if

you would like to find out from "gossip" of an incident that your Marine or Sailor was injured or killed in action before enabling others to continue to spread such tragic news to everyone. Allow the service member who has been put in the CACO role to perform his or her duty and inform families properly before someone makes a grave mistake.

The only proper notification to those not involved will be through the Battalion Commander or the remain behind Battalion Commander who is currently our Executive Officer. May God continue to be with our Marines and Sailors along with those families who have lost their service members while they continue in the fight for freedom!

Thank you for your time.

Battalion Happenings

August

- **August 6** - Operation Deployed Delivery - 6:30 pm at 2d LAR BN Classroom, childcare is available - please RSVP to Heather Luis at email polku2405@yahoo.com. This weeks meeting will include a guest speaker on the many services available on base and in the Jacksonville area to expecting military spouses. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
- **August 11** - Command Team meeting to be held at 2D LAR BN Ray Room at 9:00 am
- **August 18** - Volunteer meeting to be held at 2D LAR BN classroom at 6:30 pm
- **August 20** - Operation Deployed Delivery - 6:30 pm at 2d LAR BN Classroom, childcare is available - please RSVP to Heather Luis at email polku2405@yahoo.com.
- **August 25** - Command Team meeting to be held at 2D LAR BN Ray Room 9:00 am
- **August 29th** - "In the Midst" for families of deployed Marines & Sailors will take place at the Russell Building followed by a CACO class. More information will be distributed soon.
- **August 30** - BN Book Club Location: Base Library Time: 3pm - 5pm. Childcare is available. The book will be "The Time Traveler's Wife". Contact: Alane Madsen at email amads103@yahoo.com for more information.

September

- **September 4th** - Big Sis/Lil Sis. More information will follow. Please mark your calendar!
- **September 19th** - BN baby shower - For spouses who have had a baby from Jan 09 or will be delivering by December 09. We will be holding a shower which will prove to be lots of fun, entertaining, and informative. Vendors from MCFTB, Hospital, CDC and more will be available to assist you with answering your questions and providing information for you to take home. This will be a RSVP event with childcare provided. Please mark your calendar to attend, from 11 to 3 pm (subject to change, more information to follow.)

Check out page 12 of this issue for events happening on base or around town that you won't want to miss!

Military Fee Assistance Programs

Operation Military Child Care (OMCC)

Supports the temporary child care needs of military parents who are activated or deployed.

Who's eligible? Families/legal guardians of the children of National Guard & Reserve Service members who are currently activated or deployed. Families/legal guardians of the children of deployed Active Duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines unable to access child care on military installations.

Benefits to Military Families: Helps eligible military families locate licensed child care options in local communities. Reduces child care fees through fee assistance.

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN)

Supports military families with the cost of high quality child care outside military installations.

Who is eligible? Active duty military families.

Benefits to Military Families: Helps eligible military families locate high-quality child care options in local communities. Reduces the cost of high-quality child care.

Fee Assistance Application Process for OMCC and MCCYN

If the CCR&R receives questions from a parent about the fee assistance process, here are the steps a parent must take: Complete the fee assistance application located at <http://www.naccrra.org/military> or call the NACCRRRA Military fee assistance Department at (800) 793-0324, ext 341. Provide the following documentation to the NACCRRRA fee assistance department by fax (703) 341-4104, or mail military orders (activated/deployed only) most current military Leave and Earning Statement (LES), spouse's most current pay stub or proof of enrollment in school, birth certificate of qualifying children or self-certification statement. Additionally, the selected child care provider must fill out the provider application and fax or send to NACCRRRA fee assistance department at (703) 341-4104.

Care Packages - Items Requested!!

Your Marines and Sailors have spoken. When sending care packages, along with the items listed in Major Rodriguez's article on page 1, please include the following: Foot powder, Hair clippers (cheap ones) (The sand ruins them after a couple of weeks), ramen noodles, vienna sausages, spam, tuna cracker packs, Pringles, and protein bars.

Smiles Over the Miles



North Carolina, Inc.

Proudly Presents

1st Thursday of EVERY Month



USO Jacksonville
9 Tallman Street

Show 'em your **SMILE!** Come on down to the USO in Jacksonville on the first Thursday of EVERY month, bring your smile and make a DVD video message for your deployed loved one! **SMILES over the MILES** is a **FREE** program for military ID card holders, sponsored by **Pioneer Services, Inc.!** Enjoy pizza courtesy of **Pizza Hut**, games and prizes! 5:00-8:00 PM



A Division of **MidCountry Bank**



Big Sis Little Sis

Please come and meet up with your big sis - a mentor program to help spouses who are new to the Marine Corps and learn from the ones who have been in for at least a year. There is so much to learn and to understand. Having a mentor helps answer questions and point you in the right direction. First event will be in September so check in the next newsletter for information! The point of contact is Clara McDaniel at clara-bellemcdaniel@yahoo.com



United Through Reading Update

Have you received your DVD yet? Encourage your Sailor/Marine/Soldier/Airman to make a recording that your child will be able to watch again and again. There is nothing like having Mom or Dad's face and voice right there at home, even if they are deployed. By participating in the United Through Reading the bedtime story tradition can begin or continue. If you have received a video, don't forget to complete the "Full Circle of Communication" by sending feedback to your deployed Sailor /Marine /Soldier /Airman in the form of a picture, video, or even a letter or email. Let your service member know their time was well spent and how much the tape means to you and your child. Mail your service member another book and another video could soon be on its way.

Comments on the how the program is working for you are welcome. Please contact your United Through Reading Homefront Coordinator - Michelle Varga at pcvarga@yahoo.com or fill out a home front survey on the website <http://www.unitedthroughreading.org>

Women's Support Group



Designed for present and past victims of domestic violence. Learn in a safe and supportive environment. Women who are active duty, spouses of active duty, retirees, or spouses of retirees are welcome to join us. Walk-ins welcome!

When: Friday's 1000-1200

Location: Community Counseling Center Conference Room, Bldg. 798
(Behind Russell Marine & Family Services Center, Bldg 40)

Topics of discussion include Domestic Violence, Who are the Victims, Self-esteem, Relationships, Cultural Influences, Gender Differences, Reclaiming Dreams, and An End is a New Beginning.

Call 451-2864 for registration and a brief needs assessment.

August 7—9, 2009 - Sales Tax Holiday



Don't miss the August Sales Tax Holiday

Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9, 2009

Clothing, footwear, and school supplies of \$100 or less per item

Sports and recreation equipment of \$50 or less per item

School instructional materials of \$300 or less per item

Computer of \$3,500 or less per item

Computer supplies of \$250 or less per item

Clothing accessories, jewelry, cosmetics, protective equipment, wallets, furniture, items used in a trade or business, and rental are not covered by the exemption.

More information available at:

http://www.dor.state.nc.us/taxes/sales/holiday_4-08.pdf

<http://www.dor.state.nc.us/practitioner/sales/bulletins/section34.pdf>

Other Events on Base or Around Town

Aug 6th - Show 'em your SMILE! Come on down to the **USO in Jacksonville** on the first Thursday of EVERY month from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Bring your smile and make a free DVD video message for your deployed loved one! Food, games, and prizes are provided.

Aug 10th - 14th - Midway Park, Performing Arts Camp. Register by **August 3rd**. \$25 per child. Boys and Girls ages 6 & up. To register call 451-1807.

Aug 20th - **Chili's of Jacksonville** is holding their monthly support the troops night from 4:00 - 11:00 PM! The Western Blvd Chili's in Jacksonville will donate 10% of your total check to the USO of North Carolina! You must mention that you would like 10% of your check to be donated to the USO.

Check out other events at <http://www.mccslejeune.com/community/>

Summer Isn't Over Yet - Fun Ideas

Summer



Blahs?

100+ More Things To Do With Your Family

1. make a tent out of blankets
2. run through the sprinkler
3. make homemade play dough
4. press flowers
5. clean bedroom
6. use binoculars
7. bird watching
8. write a play
9. perform a circus
10. collect rocks
11. make Frisbee's out of old plastic lids, decorate with markers
12. listen to a story or book on tape
13. do brain teasers (crosswords, word searches, hidden pictures, mazes, etc.)
14. surprise a neighbor with a good deed
15. prepare a "restaurant" lunch with menus
16. hunt for four-leaf clovers
17. learn magic tricks
18. sprout seeds or beans
19. make sock puppets
20. make Christmas presents
21. make homemade wrapping paper
22. make picture frames from twigs glued onto sturdy cardboard
23. sew buttons in designs on old shirts
24. run relay races
25. watch the clouds
26. vacuum under the couch cushions and keep any change found
27. whittle bars of soap
28. perform a family concert
29. clean bathroom mirrors
30. wash bicycles
31. copy your favorite book illustration
32. design your own game
33. create a design box (copper wire, string, odds-and-ends of things destined for the garbage, pom-poms, thread, yarn, etc.)
34. plan a neighborhood or family Olympics
35. paint a picture with lemon juice on white paper and hang it in a sunny window and see what happens in a few days
36. finger paint with pudding
37. give your pet a party
38. have a read-a-thon with a friend or sibling
39. arrange photo albums
40. draw a cartoon strip
41. make a map of your bedroom, house or neighborhood
42. cut pictures from old magazines and write a story
43. do a secret service for a neighbor
44. search your house for items made in other countries and then learn about those countries from the encyclopedia or online
45. plan an imaginary trip around the world, where would you want to go
46. write a science-fiction story
47. have a Spelling Bee
48. surprise an elderly neighbor or relative by weeding his/her garden
49. put together a family newsletter
50. make a wind chime out of things headed for the garbage
51. do a jigsaw puzzle
52. play on the Geosafari
53. play on the computer
54. listen to a story or book on tape
55. do extra schoolwork to get ahead
56. do brain teasers (crosswords, word searches, hidden pictures, mazes, etc.)
57. cook
58. prepare lunch
59. surprise a neighbor with a good deed
60. play store
61. prepare a "restaurant" lunch with menus
62. hold a tea party
63. have a Teddy bear picnic
64. play with toy cars
65. play dolls
66. play house
67. chase butterflies
68. collect caterpillars and bugs
69. plant a garden or a pot
70. collect seeds
71. hunt for four-leaf clovers
72. learn magic tricks
73. put on a magic show
74. plant a container garden
75. sprout seeds or beans
76. put on a puppet show
77. make Christmas presents
78. make homemade wrapping paper
79. make homemade gift cards
80. make picture frames from twigs glued onto sturdy cardboard
81. crochet or knit
82. sew buttons in designs on old shirts
83. run relay races
84. make bookmarks
85. vacuum under the couch cushions and keep any change found
86. whittle bars of soap
87. perform a family concert
88. teach yourself to play musical instrument (recorder, harmonica, guitar)
89. vacuum car
90. wash bicycles
91. build a sandcastle
92. work with clay
93. copy your favorite book illustration
94. design your own game
95. create a design box (copper wire, string, odds-and-ends of things destined for the garbage, pom-poms, thread, yarn, etc.)
96. plan a neighborhood or family Olympics
97. have a marble tournament
98. paint a picture with lemon juice on white paper and hang it in a sunny window and see what happens in a few days
99. make dessert
100. give your pet a party
101. start a nature diary
102. have a read-a-thon with a friend or sibling
103. have a neighborhood bike wash
104. play flashlight tag

From
www.stretcher.com/stories/03/03jul21h.cfm

2DMARDIV POST

AUGUST 2009

#120



Family Newsletter

Office: (910) 451-1620

Cell: (910) 381-0651

Family Readiness

Information Line

1-800-230-8762

Press 5 for Menu

Press 5 again for CO's message

Marine Corps Family Team Building

August Events

4th Volunteer Tracking Tool Training
5th Command Team/Member Training
5th - 6th Daddy's Baby Boot Camp/Mom's Basic Training
6th - 7th "Before I Do" Workshop
7th - 9th Marriage Enrichment Retreat II
8th In The Midst
10th - 13th NPSP Parenting Class
11th Family Readiness Assistant Training
11th Kids N' Reunion
13th Family Readiness Officer Training
14th - 16th Marriage Enrichment Retreat
17th - 18th Mass Communication Tool Refresher
18th Navy LINKS Spouse's Session
19th - 20th Daddy's Baby Boot Camp/Mom's Basic Training
20th LINKS Spouse's Session
20th - 21st "Before I Do" Workshop
22nd Family Readiness Assistant Training
24th Family Readiness Advisor Training
25th Resource Training (Mod 3 of VT)
25th - 26th LINKS Spouse's 2 Day Session
26th - 27th Marriage Enrichment (PREP)
26th - 27th Family Readiness Assistant Training
Visit <http://www.mccslejeune.com/mcftb/index.html> for further information and contact numbers.

MCB Camp Lejeune

The II Marine Expeditionary Force has established several toll free information lines to allow friends and family members access to current information about their loved ones.

II MEF 1-877-817-7322 OR LOCAL 451-8780

2D MARDIV 1-800-230-8762 OR LOCAL 451-3207

2D MAW 1-866-242-0064 then press: 1

22 MEU 1-877-817-7322 OR LOCAL 451-8780 then press: 4

24 MEU 1-877-817-7322 OR LOCAL 451-8780.....5

26 MEU 1-877-817-7322 OR LOCAL 451-8780.....6

II MEF FWD 1-877-817-7322 OR LOCAL 451-8780.....7

Websites of Interest

MCCS 2009 Event Listing: Also listed on 2D LAR BN's website.

[http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/Public/InfolineMarines.nsf/0/DB49CD21F03F8D35852575CC00652124/\\$FILE/MCCS%20Event%20Listing%202009.pdf](http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/Public/InfolineMarines.nsf/0/DB49CD21F03F8D35852575CC00652124/$FILE/MCCS%20Event%20Listing%202009.pdf)

Hurricane Brochure - BE PREPARED!! http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/Hurricane_Brochure.pdf

Camp Lejeune, NC Hurricane Guide: <http://www.marines.mil/units/mcieast/mcblejeune/Pages/hurricane-guide/default.aspx>

American Red Cross - Onslow County Chapter - <http://onslow.redcross.org>